

Message Text

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73-62

ACTION PM-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 NEA-06 EUR-10 NSC-10 NSCE-00

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 L-02 ACDA-10 IO-03

MBFR-02 OMB-01 DODE-00 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 RSR-01 /075 W

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R 111810 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8718

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USDOCO SOUTH NAPLES

S E C R E T ROME 3760

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, IT, NATO

SUBJECT: INITIAL REACTION TO US APPROACH TO MBFR

VIENNA (FOR MBFR DEL)

1. DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF FONOFF RESPONSIBLE FOR MBFR HAS VOLUNTEERED
PRELIMINARY REACTION TO U. S. APPROACH PAPER TABLED IN NATO.

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STRESSING THAT HIS REMARKS REFLECTED ONLY INITIAL VIEWS OF HIS OFFICE, OFFICIAL BRIEFED US FROM MEMORANDUM PREPARED FOR INTERNAL FONOFF CONSIDERATION.

2. FONOFF OFFICIAL PRAISED US PAPER FOR ITS CAUTIOUS, CONSERVATIVE APPROACH WHICH SET REASONABLE LIMIT ON REDUCTIONS, WHICH TOOK NOT ONLY NATO BUT EUROPEAN SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS FULLY INTO ACCOUNT AND WHICH AIMED AT CONCEPT OF UNDIMINISHED AND POSSIBLY ENHANCED SECURITY FOR THE WEST. OTHER FEATURES OF REPORT WHICH OFFICIAL SINGLED OUT FOR POSITIVE COMMENT WERE RETENTION OF STRATEGY OF FLEXIBLE RESPONSE, EFFORT TO MITIGATE ASYMMETRY OF FORCES, RETENTION OF CENTRAL EUROPE FOCUS AND CAVEAT AGAINST EXTENSION OF NEGOTIATIONS TO BALKANS AND OTHER AREAS.

3. OF THREE ACCEPTABLE MBFR OUTCOMES PRESENTED IN PAPER, FONOFF OFFICIAL SAID THAT HIS OFFICE HAD CLEAR PREFERENCE FOR SECOND OPTION CALLING FOR ONE SIXTH REDUCTION OF STATIONED FORCES. THIS OPTION HAD ADVANTAGE, IN ITALIAN VIEW, OF KEEPING FOCUS ON STATIONED TROOPS WHILE FIRST MODEL LEFT DOOR OPEN TO EVENTUAL REDUCTIN OF INDIGENOUS FORCES. FURTHERMORE, ALTHOUGH US PAPER DID NOT DEAL DIRECTLY WITH IMPACT OF MBFR ON EUROPEAN INTEGRATION, OFFICIAL FELT THAT SECOND OPTION PROVIDED BEST SAFEGUARD AGAINST EASTERN EFFORTS TO IMPEDE EUROPEAN UNITARY DEVELOPMENT, PARTICULARLY SINCE INDIVIDUAL EUROPEAN COUNTRIES ARE NOT SINGLED OUT IN ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW CEILING. THIRD MODEL IN US PAPER CAUSED CONCERN BECAUSE IT COULD OPEN THE DOOR TO NEGOTIATION ON FBS, A SUBJECT WHICH ITALIANS STILL TENTATIVELY BELIEVE WOULD BEST BE TAKEN UP IN SALT IF IT MUST BE CONSIDERED AT ALL.

4. OFFICIAL SUMMED UP INITIAL REACTION BY SAYING THAT US PAPER FURNISHED EXCELLENT START TO PREPARATIONS FOR MBFR NEGOTIATIONS. ITALIAN THINKING CONCIDES WITH MAIN LINES OF US IDEAS AND THERE ARE NO POINTS ON WHICH ITALIANS HAVE SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCES OF VIEW. VOLPE

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TAGS: PARM, IT, NATO
To: ANKARA
ATHENS
BONN
BRUSSELS
COPENHAGEN
LISBON
PM

SECSTATE WASHDC
THE HAGUE

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